

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1291, As Amended

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOLARSHIPS; AMENDING CHAPTER 43, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-4305, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADULT DEGREE COMPLETION SCHOLARSHIP AND RELATED PROVISIONS AND TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE CERTAIN RULES.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 43, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 33-4305, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-4305. ADULT DEGREE COMPLETION SCHOLARSHIP -- RULEMAKING. (1) The purposes of this section are to:

(a) Increase the number of Idaho citizens who have a postsecondary degree or credential necessary to meet future workforce needs;

(b) Recognize that one (1) of the many challenges adults face as they return to college is financing their education;

(c) Provide access to eligible Idaho postsecondary education through funding to remove financial barriers; and

(d) Incentivize students to complete a postsecondary education degree or certificate.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Adult degree completion scholarship" means the scholarship program described in this section and in the rules promulgated by the state board.

(b) "Educational costs" means the dollar amount determined annually by the state board of education as necessary for student tuition, fees, books and other expenses reasonably related to attendance at an eligible Idaho postsecondary educational institution.

(c) "Eligible institution" shall be defined in the same manner as provided in section 33-4303(2)(b), Idaho Code.

(d) "Eligible student" means a student who:

(i) Is an Idaho resident as defined in section 33-3717B, Idaho Code;

(ii) Is enrolled in or has applied to an eligible institution;

(iii) Is a postsecondary undergraduate student who has not previously completed an undergraduate degree;

(iv) Is an undergraduate reentry student who has experienced a gap of three (3) years or more in the pursuit of an undergraduate degree; and

(v) Is pursuing a clearly identified career path.

(e) "State board" means the state board of education.

(3) The state board shall promulgate rules to determine student eligibility, academic and financial eligibility, a process for eligible students

1 to apply, amount of awards, how eligible students will be selected and when
2 the awards will be made, as well as other rules necessary for the administra-
3 tion of this section.

4 (4) The adult degree completion scholarship award shall not exceed the
5 actual educational costs at the eligible institution that the student at-
6 tends. The amount of scholarship shall not exceed the educational costs es-
7 tablished by the state board.

8 (5) Award payments shall be made annually to an eligible institution.
9 In no instance may the entire amount of an award be paid to or on behalf of any
10 student in advance.

11 (6) If an eligible student becomes ineligible for a scholarship under
12 the provisions of this chapter, or if a student discontinues attendance
13 before the end of any semester, quarter, term or equivalent covered by the
14 award after receiving payment under this chapter, then the eligible institu-
15 tion shall remit, up to the amount of any payments made under this program,
16 any prorated tuition or fee balances to the state board.

17 (7) There is hereby created an account in the state treasury to be des-
18 ignated the adult degree completion scholarship program account.

19 (a) The account shall consist of moneys appropriated to the account by
20 the legislature, moneys contributed to the account from other sources
21 and the earnings on such moneys. The executive director of the state
22 board may receive on behalf of the state board any moneys or real or per-
23 sonal property donated, bequeathed, devised or conditionally granted
24 to the state board of education for purposes of providing funding for
25 such account. Moneys received directly or derived from the sale of such
26 property shall be deposited by the state treasurer in the account.

27 (b) Earnings from moneys in the account or specified gifts shall be dis-
28 tributed annually to the state board to implement the adult degree com-
29 pletion scholarship program.

30 (c) All moneys deposited in the account and earnings on such moneys are
31 hereby perpetually appropriated to the state board for the purpose of
32 implementing the adult degree completion scholarship program. All ex-
33 penditures from the account shall be paid out in warrants drawn by the
34 state controller upon presentation of the proper vouchers.

35 (d) Pending use, surplus moneys in the account shall be invested by the
36 state treasurer in the same manner as provided in section 67-1210, Idaho
37 Code. Interest earned on the investments shall be returned to the ac-
38 count.

39 (8) The effectiveness of the adult degree completion scholarship pro-
40 gram will be evaluated by the state board on a regular basis. This evaluation
41 will include annual data collection as well as longer-term evaluations.